John Holmes Overton

LATE A SENATOR FROM
LOUISIANA

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Memorial Services

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE UNITED STATES, TOGETHER WITH
REMARKS PRESENTED IN EULOGY OF

John Holmes Overton

LATE A SENATOR FROM
LOUISIANA

U.S
50-60856

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Eighty-first Congress
First Session

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1950

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

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U.S. Govt. Print. Off. 1964

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Biography

JOHN HOLMES OVERTON was born in Marksville, Avoyelles Parish, La., September 17, 1875; attended the public schools; was graduated from the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge in 1895 and from the law department of Tulane University, New Orleans, La., in 1897; was admitted to the bar in 1898 and commenced practice in Alexandria, La.; former member of the board of supervisors of Louisiana State University; elected as a Democrat to the Seventy-second Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of James B. Aswell and served from May 12, 1931, to March 3, 1933; did not seek renomination in 1932, having become a candidate for Senator; elected to the United States Senate in 1932, reelected in 1938, and again in 1944, and served from March 4, 1933, until his death in the naval hospital at Bethesda, Md., May 14, 1948; interment in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Pineville, La.

In the House of Representatives

THURSDAY, *May 12, 1949.*

Mrs. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on House Administration, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 186) providing for holding memorial services on Wednesday, May 25, 1949 (Rept. No. 574), and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That on Wednesday, the 25th day of May 1949, immediately after the approval of the Journal, the House shall stand at recess for the purpose of holding the memorial services as arranged by the Committee on House Administration under the provisions of clause (1) (j) (2) (C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The order of exercises and proceedings of the service shall be printed in the Congressional Record, and all Members shall have leave for 60 legislative days to extend their remarks in the Congressional Record on the life, character, and public service of deceased Members. At the conclusion of the proceedings, the Speaker shall call the House to order and then as a further mark of respect to the memories of the deceased he shall declare the House adjourned.

* * * * *

The resolution was agreed to.

Memorial Services
in the
House of Representatives

Eighty-first Congress
First Session

Memorial Service Program

Prelude, sacred selections (11:30 to 12)--United States Army Band

Presiding officer----------The Speaker, Hon. Sam Rayburn

Invocation----------The Chaplain, Dr. James Shera Montgomery

Solo, There Is No Death (O'Hara)----------Mr. Robert C. Nicholson
At the piano------Sgt. Albert Goepper

Scripture reading and prayer----------The Chaplain

Roll of deceased Members
The Clerk of the House of Representatives

Devotional silence.

Address----------Hon. Reva Beck Bosone
Representative from the State of Utah

Solo: Requiem (Homer)----------Mr. Robert C. Nicholson
At the piano------Sgt. Albert Goepper

Address----------Hon. Frances P. Bolton
Representative from the State of Ohio

Taps----------Sgt. Charles Barnes

Echo----------Sgt. George Myers

Benediction----------The Chaplain

John Holmes Overton

Memorial Services

WEDNESDAY, *May 25, 1949.*

The SPEAKER of the House of Representatives (Mr. Rayburn) presided.

The Chaplain, Dr. James Shera Montgomery:

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy holy spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily magnify Thy holy name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mr. Robert C. Nicholson, accompanied at the piano by Sgt. Albert Goepper sang There Is No Death (O'Hara).

The CHAPLAIN—

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the pres-

ence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

"As I stand by my cross on the lone mountain's crest,
Looking over the ultimate sea,
In the gloom of the mountain a ship lies at rest,
And one sails away from the lea.
One spreads its white wings on a far-reaching track,
With pennant and sheet flowing free;
One hides in the shadow with sails laid aback—
The ship that is waiting for me!

"But lo! in the distance the clouds break away!
The Gate's glowing portals I see;
And I hear from the outgoing ship in the bay
The song of the sailors in glee.
So I think of the luminous footprints that bore
The comfort o'er dark Galilee;
And wait for the signal to go to the shore,
To the ship that is waiting for me."

Heavenly Father, our minds are arrested as we pause to meditate upon the brevity of this life and the immortality of the human soul. Thy providential care towers above the horizons of human needs, and reveals the ultimate blessing to those who pass this way. Our hearts sing, "God cares."

O Thou who didst bow Thy head upon the cross, comfort the sorrowing ones who linger here. Not in vain do we call upon Thee, for we know that neither death, nor life, nor powers, nor any other creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

ROLL OF DECEASED MEMBERS

Mr. Alney E. Chaffee, reading clerk of the House of Representatives, read the following roll:

JOHN HOLMES OVERTON, a Senator from the State of Louisiana: Born September 17, 1875; lawyer; graduated from the Louisiana

State University at Baton Rouge in 1895 and from Tulane University at New Orleans in 1897; former member of the board of supervisors of Louisiana State University; Member of the House of Representatives, the Seventy-second Congress; elected to the United States Senate in 1932, 1938, and 1944; died May 14, 1948.

HARLAN JOHN BUSHFIELD, a Senator from the State of South Dakota: Born August 6, 1882; lawyer; attended the Dakota Wesleyan University at Mitchell, S. Dak.; graduated from the Minnesota University Law School at Minneapolis in 1904; served as Governor of South Dakota, 1939–42; elected to the United States Senate in 1942; died September 27, 1948.

JOSEPH MELVILLE BROUGHTON, a Senator from the State of North Carolina: Born November 17, 1888; lawyer; attended Hugh Morson Academy, Wake Forest College, and Harvard University Law School; member of the State senate, 1927–29; served on the board of trustees of Wake Forest College and the University of North Carolina; Governor of North Carolina, 1941–45; elected to the United States Senate in 1948; died March 6, 1949.

THOMAS LEONARD OWENS, Seventh Congressional District of Illinois: Born December 21, 1897; lawyer; attended Northwestern University and De Paul University, Chicago, Ill.; graduated from Loyola University Law School, Chicago, Ill., in 1926; served as a private in World War I; Member of the Eightieth Congress; died June 7, 1948.

MILTON HORACE WEST, Fifteenth Congressional District of Texas: Born June 30, 1888; lawyer; attended the West Texas Military Academy, San Antonio, Tex.; served with Company C, Texas Rangers, in 1911 and 1912; district attorney, 1922–25; assistant district attorney, 1927–30; served in the State house of representatives, 1930–33; Member of the Seventy-third to Eightieth Congresses, inclusive; died October 28, 1948.

JOHN JOSEPH DELANEY, Seventh Congressional District of New York: Born August 21, 1878; merchant; lawyer; attended St. James' Academy, Brooklyn, N. Y., and Manhattan College, New York City; graduated from Brooklyn Law School; St. Lawrence University, in 1914; delegate to the Democratic State conventions in 1922 and 1924; deputy commissioner of public markets of New York City, 1924–31; Member of the Sixty-fifth and the Seventy-second to the Eightieth Congresses, inclusive, and Member-elect of the Eighty-first Congress; died November 18, 1948.

SOL BLOOM, Twentieth Congressional District of New York: Born March 9, 1870; music publisher; captain in the New York Naval Reserves in 1917; director of the United States George Washington

Bicentennial Commission; director general of the United States Constitution Sesquicentennial Commission; chairman of Committee on Celebration of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the United States Supreme Court; director and United States Commissioner, New York World's Fair, 1939; Member of the Sixty-eighth to the Eighty-first Congresses, inclusive; died March 7, 1949.

ANDREW LAWRENCE SOMERS, Tenth Congressional District of New York: Born March 21, 1895; manufacturer; attended Manhattan College and New York University in New York City; served in World War I as a hospital apprentice, ensign, and naval aviator; delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1928; Member of the Sixty-ninth to the Eighty-first Congresses, inclusive; died April 6, 1949.

ROBERT LEWIS COFFEY, JR., Twenty-sixth Congressional District of Pennsylvania: Born October 21, 1918; engineer; soldier; attended the University of Pittsburgh and Penn State College; appointed as a flying cadet in 1939 and during World War II served through successive promotions from second lieutenant to lieutenant colonel; flew 97 combat missions; received numerous citations and decorations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross 8 times, and the Air Medal 27 times; served as military air attaché, United States Embassy, Santiago, Chile, 1945–48; Member of the Eighty-first Congress; died April 20, 1949.

Mrs. NORTON, a Representative from the State of New Jersey, standing in front of the Speaker's rostrum, placed a memorial rose in a vase as the name of each deceased Member was read by the Clerk.

There followed a period of devotional silence, during which the Members stood.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Utah [Mrs. Bosone].

Hon. REVA BECK BOSONE, a Representative from the State of Utah, delivered the following address:

ADDRESS BY HON. REVA BECK BOSONE

Mrs. BOSONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with gratitude that I accept your invitation to participate in today's memorial exercises. I realize the responsibility of fully expressing the spirit of warm friendship and the reverence which the

Members of this distinguished body have for those comrades who have lifted that curtain of mystery and gone on to eternal rest. It is with a spirit of humility that I attempt my assignment.

It singeth low in every heart,
We hear it each and all—
A song of those who answer not,
However, we may call;
They throng the silence of the breast,
We see them as of yore—
The kind, the brave, the sweet,
Who walk with us no more.

It's hard to take the burden up
When these have laid it down;
They brightened all the joy of life,
They softened every frown;
But, oh, 'tis good to think of them
When we are troubled sore!
Thanks to God that such have been,
Although they are no more.

More homelike seems the vast unknown,
Since they have entered there;
To follow them were not so hard,
Wherever they may fare;
They cannot be where God is not,
On any sea or shore;
Whate'er betides, thy love abides,
Our God, forever more.

Thanks be to God that such have been,
Although they are no more.

Bright is the morning with glaring light when the sun rises in the east. Brighter still become its rays as the morning grows into noon—the most brilliant part of the day. As afternoon wears on, the heavens shade the brilliance with colors in full bloom—the sunset. Then the twilight gathers in luxuriant hues, evening descends, and darkness puts the world to sleep.

So it is with the life span of man. With great exultation a child is born. A smile is on every face. With each hope

of life's expectancy, dreams are translated into reality. At the noontime of man's life great in luster is his development, varied is his activity, and bright is his future. As life wears on, his colorful contributions envelop him. Twilight slows the pace but sweetens the path—night descends. He who was once a child becomes a man, and in the evening of his life slips away into the night to rest forever.

In the midst of today's turmoil and haste, it is fitting that we pause to pay homage to those Members of Congress who in this past year have answered their last roll call. When those illustrious gentlemen—Senators JOHN HOLMES OVERTON, of Louisiana; HARLAN JOHN BUSHFIELD, of South Dakota; and JOSEPH MELVILLE BROUGHTON, of North Carolina—answered to their names on those heavenly rolls, I am sure it was with a strong voice of conviction, and that they went with a firm step of courage—two qualities so eminent in these distinguished statesmen.

It was with sweet satisfaction that I perused the Records and found sincere appreciation of the attributes of each of the Members of the House when notice came of his passing. Let me pay tribute to them in the words of one of their colleagues:

I know no man who assumed his responsibilities and duties as a Member of Congress more seriously than TOM OWENS. His name will go down in history as one of those rare individuals who made a thorough study of legislation and fought for what he considered to be right and just and in the best interests of the people of our glorious country.

Those who served with MILTON WEST know that he was firm in his convictions and, moreover, that he had the courage to stand by them at all times and under all circumstances. Here was the type of Representative who never deviated from what he considered the fundamental principles of sound government.

JOHN DELANEY was not only a lovable personality but a man of understanding nature; a man with whom anyone could live, without regard to differences of opinion or race or color or creed, because he was possessed of that one spirit, which I think is more important to enable people to live together than anything else—

the spirit of understanding, of respect of one for the other, with an understanding state of mind.

America gave SOL BLOOM his opportunity and America honors him in passing. He was a devoted public servant. He represents the challenge of our civilization.

ANDREW SOMERS was a great student and authority on the Constitution of the United States—its origin and its interpretation. He was perhaps the greatest authority in the House on the world monetary situation. President Roosevelt recognized his knowledge and ability by appointing him a delegate to the International Monetary Conference that was held in London.

It has brought sorrow to the hearts of all of us to see the sudden passing from our midst of so young a man as Col. ROBERT COFFEY—one who had such a brilliant record in the war and who bore such promise of great accomplishment in the field of government and statesmanship.

To these tributes which have already been spoken, those of us here know that we can add one other tribute which is applicable to each and every one of these men. It is this: "As the soldier died in patriotic service, so did he."

Today the eyes of the whole world are centered on the building in which we now sit—the Capitol of the United States. The words that are spoken and the deeds that are consummated here have a deep and abiding effect on men and women all around the globe. Unrequested, our great country through its humanitarian philosophy has assumed world leadership and world responsibility.

That this country now sits on this pinnacle of preeminence is due in no small measure to many of the men who stood during their lifetime in the well of this House.

> Thanks be to God that such have been,
> Although they are no more.

'Tis true—no more they live in their worldly tabernacles—no more do we feel the warmth of their friendly smile, the grip of a strong handshake—the chastisement of our views on legislation, sometimes deserved. But truly we feel the inspiration of what they said—and what they did. Their convictions and their deeds will live forever in the statutes of

this Nation. Their courage and humanity have forged an unbroken chain of friendship among those they met in their service to their country.

> Thanks be to God that such have been,
> Although they are no more.

"No more?" Who can say that? Regardless of a person's religious views or church affiliation, it is difficult to say where this influence leaves off. A word said today, blossoms into a thought tomorrow, and eventually activates a deed. Where is the end? There is none. Kind words and noble deeds go on forever. Their identity is lost, but the identity is not important.

Have you ever sat on the side of a mountain and observed the bigness of the universe? Have you ever stood on a high pinnacle where a panoramic view of God's handiwork overwhelmed you? One's ego vanishes into nothingness upon the sight of God's creation.

There is no end—a beginning of something else—what? Does it matter? If it does, climb to the topmost ridge of the nearest hill and drink in the fresh air and relax in nature's beauty. Fast will come the realization that there is a plan—a beginning, a development—a death—a death that there must be a rebirth. There is no end.

Some trees have shallow roots. They spread widely, but are stumped. Their shadow is large for awhile, but the tree soon topples and is gone.

Other trees send their roots deep into the earth. They reach for the heavens and grow tall. Their shadow is broad and long and remains for hundreds of years.

Some men develop fast and glamorously, but leave without an imprint upon the life of man—their shadow fades.

Other men work slowly but surely for the benefit of their fellowman. Their unselfish and noble thoughts and deeds give them a deep and rich foundation upon which they grow—grow to such a height and with such firm roots that their shadow lasts.

Some had a full day in which to develop; others, like Colonel COFFEY, lived a long life, but a short day.

We have long ceased to count the numerical years of a man's life, his life is calculated only on the scale of achievement, not selfish attainments but contributions to the happiness and security of mankind.

I feel sure that each Member of Congress who has answered the final roll call has shortened his life because he has placed responsibility to his country first. His community and State achievements have been given national expression. The weight of his conscientiousness in his daily work gave him deep roots, a long shadow, and an everlasting influence in the world.

Thanks be to God that such have been,
Although they are no more.

Death is only an old door,
Set in a garden wall;
On gentle hinges it gives, at dusk
When the thrushes call.

There is nothing to trouble any heart;
Nothing to hurt at all.
Death is only a quiet door
In an old wall.

Our beloved colleagues—

Cannot be where God is not,
On any sea or shore;
What e'er betides, thy love abides,
Our God, for ever more.

Mr. Robert C. Nicholson, accompanied at the piano by Sgt. Albert Goepper, sang Requiem (Homer).

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio [Mrs. Bolton].

Hon. FRANCES P. BOLTON, a Representative from the State of Ohio, delivered the following address:

ADDRESS BY HON. FRANCES P. BOLTON

Mrs. BOLTON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, some 15 years ago I was in London on the November day that marks the cease-

fire order of the First World War. We call it Armistice Day, the British call it Remembrance Day, and so observe it.

It was not cold, but there was a mist which now and again became the soft rain with which Londoners are so familiar. Close after dawn the people began to gather at the Cenotaph, that simple monument in the very heart of busiest London to which every cabby unobtrusively tips his hat as he drives by it with a reverence which comes from his heart. There was to be a simple memorial service there in midmorning, read by bishops and archbishops, attended by the King and Queen and all the royal family, and shared by all the great and small who could get near enough to hear, as well as those who just stood quietly beyond the range of sight and hearing.

Many of the battle monuments had been designated as gathering places. We chose the one at Hyde Park corner, where a platoon of the regiment whose dead were honored there stood watch. At a few minutes before 11 a car drove up, several men in the formal morning coats of Members of Parliament got out, and in their turn placed a wreath and took their places beside the monument.

If you knew London in the thirties, you knew the teeming noise of that unbelievably busy corner with its busses, cabs, and cars of every sort, its hawkers of every kind. Then suddenly the bugler sounded the first note of taps, and instantaneously there was silence, hats were off, and we all stood motionless as the poignant call went out, to be taken up in the distance to the north, to the south, to the east, to the west, like echoes in the mist. Tears ran unchecked from the eyes of stalwart men and sad-eyed women as the sound died. Then once again the bugler raised his bugle to his lips—reveille. The English notes vary a little from ours, but there was no mistaking the call.

Deeply moved, I waited until the crowd had gone and I could go quietly up to this bugler and ask some little question which would perhaps draw from him the reason for this second call, as it did. He saluted, tears still in his eyes and

on his cheek. "Yes, lady, we plays them taps and then we plays them reveille to remind us of the Resurrection."

Later in the day we went to Westminster Abbey, outside of which, in the grass plot, miniature cemetery lots had been marked out, each with the name of some regiment, each with rows of tiny crosses made of palm with a red poppy at the crossbar. There were literally thousands of them, and even as we stood there men and women and children came quietly and planted their crosses beside those already there.

And inside the Abbey?

I wish I could paint the picture to you in words you would never forget. We took our places at a side door in the quiet line that had begun its march in the early morning and in a few minutes found ourselves in the great Abbey. Only the chancel was lighted—the boy choir was chanting evensong. A deep red velvet rope outlined the slab under which lies the body of their unknown soldier. Four guards stood at the four corners. Heaped waist high upon the stone were red roses, placed there one by one even as we placed ours as we, too, paid our respects to the unknown dead—a steady stream of men and women from early day to dark—remembering.

Mr. Speaker, we, too, as a Nation have our Memorial Day. We, too, pay homage to our gallant dead who served their country on the battlefields of earth and sky and sea. This we shall do in all the cemeteries of this great land and those beyond the seas when Monday is upon us.

We here of the Congress of this indissoluble Union of great States have our own remembrance day when we come together to honor those who served their country in these halls through years that held both peace and war.

We have gathered here on this lovely spring afternoon in especial remembrance of those men to whom the gateway into the unseen has opened during the past year. Permit me to name them one by one that we may bring them more closely among us at this moment:

Senator JOHN H. OVERTON, Louisiana.

Senator HARLAN J. BUSHFIELD, South Dakota.

Senator J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON, North Carolina.
Representative THOMAS L. OWENS, Illinois.
Representative MILTON H. WEST, Texas.
Representative JOHN J. DELANEY, New York.
Representative SOL BLOOM, New York.
Representative ANDREW L. SOMERS, New York.
Representative ROBERT L. COFFEY, JR., Pennsylvania.

We come to do them honor, these whose span of years is done, with the warmth of their personalities still with us and the echo of their voices still lingering in these halls. We come to commend them to the Almighty and to wish them godspeed on their next adventure.

As is our custom we have invited their families to come among us that they may know we share their loss, that we reach out our hands and hearts to them in their bereavement.

Friends, we welcome you. We hope that there may flow into you the warmth of this fellowship and that it may never grow cold. Especially do I welcome you, for I, too, have sat in those very seats with my sons and have been lifted up on this same tide of understanding. May you take with you from this hour of togetherness a new courage, and a deepened sense of what the years of service given here to our great country by the men you love meant to them and to the land they served. May you know beyond all shadow of doubt that "grief" can be and "should be, like joy, majestic, equable, sedate, confirming, cleansing, raising, making free, strong to consume small troubles, to command great thoughts, grave thoughts, thoughts lasting to the end"—Aubrey de Vere.

May you have learned ere this that grief is but a selfish thing, that death is one with life even as the river and the sea are one. May you have found that "in the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond, and like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring." May I urge you to "trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity"—Khali Gibran.

"A nation is not a tangible thing, not a building of bricks and mortar that will crash to ruins at the first strong blow." A nation is not its laws, its customs, its behavior, even its history. "It is an echo of the past, a whisper from the future, the whole bound together with the lives, the hopes, and the endeavors of millions of men and women"—Daphne du Maurier. The strength of a nation is the morale, the restraint of its people.

Our America was founded upon a dream and established upon a vision. To the peoples of the world, America stands as a symbol of strength and progress, of enlightened living. Let us remember that, whenever we listen for the echoes of other days, and lift our eyes and try to see over the cusp of tomorrow's dawn.

For 90 and more years these very walls have welcomed the men and women who have taken their turn here under the seals of the States of which the Union is made up, to formulate the laws that should protect the freedom which God in His wisdom permits us to enjoy. Insofar as they have had light they have endeavored to be faithful to their solemn oath to protect the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, both without and within, the Constitution which gave us "a threefold cord that is not quickly broken"—Ecclesiastes 3: 7.

How marvelous that great document—that code under which all of us who are a part of government must function to protect the millions of simple men and women from the domination of other individuals and groups as well as that of government itself. Fluid, with its roots in the fundamental truths of man's very existence, containing within itself the formulas of necessary change.

For close to a century within this Chamber, and the Chamber at the other end of the Capitol, the laws of this great representative Republic have been made. Men have come here from every corner of the land to bring their particular points of view, their special contributions, and lay them upon

this altar. Distances are vast, both in miles and in backgrounds of thought. The clash of sectional thinking has often hurled itself back and forth as the spokesman of each area battled for particular interest. And then again the clear bell will ring from the tower of selfless patriotism and all hearts unite as if they were singing with Langston Hughes:

> Let America be America again,
> Let it be the dream it used to be.
> Let it be the pioneer on the plain
> Seeking a home where he himself is free.
> Let America be the dream the dreamers dream—
> Let it be the great strong land of love
> Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme.
> —*The Dream of America, Langston Hughes.*

We sit here again today in this old-fashioned Chamber where contention has flared, where compromise has been accomplished, where legislation has been brought forth. Above us the state seals have been a reminder that we are indeed a union of many different and differing groups. Our hearts are softened by our common loss, while before our inner eye pass these with whom we have shared the burden and the joy of service here. We shall miss them always.

Let us hope that the vibrations of loyalty and service of these many years have penetrated deep into these walls, that they may give back to those who listen the charge to be vigilant, the courage to be strong, lest freedom, the most cherished of all man's privileges, be taken from us.

These walls are saying to us even now:

There was a dream that men could one day speak the thoughts of their own choosing.

There was a hope that men could one day stroll through streets at evening, unafraid.

There was a prayer that each could speak to his own God—in his own church.

That dream, that hope, that prayer became America!

Great strength, youthful heart, vast enterprise, hard work make it so.

Now that same America is the dream, the hope, the prayer of the world.

Our freedom, its dream. Our strength, its hope. Our swift race against time, its prayer.

We must not fail the world now.

We must not fail to share our freedom with it afterwards.

Keep singing, keep working, and fight for America.

—*From The Flag Speaks.*

Yes, this land we love was dreamed into being as all things are, for first must come the stirring of the idea and then the bringing it forth into form. But that is not all—for if it is not seized hold upon and built up stone by stone, arch by arch, spire by spire, it will lie quiet until some other comes and builds it to the skies.

When the dream has been dreamed and vision has brought it into being, men must have the courage to find out its depths and heights, its breadth and all its implications and the endurance to work unceasingly to make it live, to protect it from vandals, to share it with those who have it not.

This they have done in goodly measures, these in whose name we gather here—with those whose footsteps have grown faint with the years. May we add their courage and their longings to our own, for we are a Nation so truly wanting to do right, we Americans; but we still mistake the just wanting for the doing, for the being. Just wanting to be friends with others will not make us so. Much must first be built of trust, of confidence, of mutual respect, before there can be the strong handclasp of understanding.

Just crying aloud: Let there be peace, Oh Lord, peace in our time—will not bring peace. When shall we learn the lesson that if we really would end war, if we would preserve freedom, then must we—

Create great peace—

The peace that demands all of a man,

His love, his life, his veriest self;

Plunge him in the smelting fires of a work that becomes his child;

Coerce him to be himself at all hazards, with the toil and the mating that belong to him:

Compel him to serve—

Give him a hard peace: a peace of discipline and justice—

Kindle him with vision, invite him to joy and adventure;
Set him at work, not to create things,
But to create men,
Yes, himself.
Go search your heart, America—
Turn from machine to man,
Build, while there is yet time, a creative peace—
While there is yet time;
For if you reject great peace,
As surely as vile living brings disease
So surely shall your selfishness bring war.
—*From 1914 and After War and Laughter, by James Oppenheim.*

This same thought so forcefully given by James Oppenheim after the First World War was expressed to me in other language in 1945 by an ensign in our Naval Reserve. He wrote:

Be strong, curious, tenacious in your investigations and thinking on the various matters that come before you. Be critical of anything that tends to regulate our lives—demand facts, not fine words, from those who sell these things. Don't be afraid to let us struggle with our lives, for out of struggle comes strong people.

What wisdom in his words. "Do not be afraid to let us struggle with our lives."

Is it perhaps fear that gives birth to measures that would deprive our youth of struggle, of the compulsion to serve, of the discipline of justice? Is it fear that tempts us to give him something other than a hard peace? Are we afraid to turn loose the creative forces of our people to build the creative peace that Oppenheim has said is the one way to keep from war?

If this is so then let us use these precious moments of togetherness to clasp hands, and hearts, reviewing our faith in the God in whom we have put our trust that His power may strengthen our courage and add to it the wisdom and the carelessness of self that are the essentials of leadership. Let

us reconsecrate ourselves to the preservation of freedom with all its implications of individual responsibility and of selfless recognition of the interdependence of men and of nations. Let us remind ourselves that only as we give shall we possess, that only as we strive shall we attain.

These men who were our colleagues only yesterday—and the many others who preceded them, have left a command to service upon us that we may not set aside. Their valiant souls were here among us so short a time ago, striving to serve America.

We salute you, comrades, and we pledge you our word that we shall not falter in the task of protecting freedom here at home. Nor shall we fail to hold the torch high in the darkness that enshrouds the world, that other peoples far across the sea may take fresh heart and go forward toward the dawn. To do this we do know that we must "put our hand into the hand of God for that shall be to us better than a light and safer than a known way"—King George VI. What lies ahead is uncharted territory, unknown ways, for the world has changed, all things are new and we who must walk here yet a little time must take a fresh hold on courage and on faith. And let us be quite certain that could we but hear these comrades of ours as they speak to us they might well be saying:

You must not weep or grieve for me, but see
My joy that all my earthly chains be broke.
I go to other fields, a fairer land—
  New vistas, wider visions meet my eye,
There will be other labors for my hand,
  And new adventures 'neath that other sky.
No sigh nor tears that dissipate the soul
  Can build a lasting monument on earth
For rather would I see my life-work whole,
  See you convert it to some last worth.

—*A Message, by Roscoe Charles Wilson.*

So we have come together for an hour sharing our sorrow, strengthening our faith, taking fresh courage for the work ahead—their work and ours.

Grant us Thy blessing, Lord.

Unveil oh Thou who are the sustenance of the universe, from whom all doth proceed, to whom all must return. Thou face of the true sun now hidden by a vase of golden light, that we may see the truth and do our whole duty on our long journey to Thy sacred seat.

—*From the Sanskrit.*

Sgt. Charles Barnes, United States Army, sounded taps, the echo being sounded by Sgt. George Myers.

The Chaplain pronounced the following benediction:

Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and evermore. Amen.

Memorial Addresses
on
John Holmes Overton

Memorial Addresses

Remarks by Representative Brooks

Of Louisiana

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I was not in this Chamber on May 14 when announcement was made of the death of Louisiana's Senator JOHN H. OVERTON. I was not able to pay the tribute of love and affection which was voiced from countless lips on that occasion. I was then with the family.

JOHN OVERTON was my uncle. He was likewise my godfather. During the course of his 72 years of active life, I followed his career with a filial interest which never wavered. The influence of his life on my own has been profound.

At the time of his birth 72 years ago, the Overton family, consisting of three children, lived in what was then the straggling little French village of Marksville, La. The parish of Avoyelles in which he was born was set in the angle made by the confluence of the Red, Atchafalaya, and the Mississippi Rivers. The earliest recollections of his childhood were along the banks of Bayou Jack and Bayou deGlaise in Avoyelles Parish in central Louisiana. The periodic floods of these great rivers were tragedies of his early childhood which made an enduring impression upon his mind and neither time nor the moving political events of volcanic Louisiana politics were able to erase them from his retentive mind.

A course at the Louisiana State University, followed by a law degree from Tulane University at New Orleans, completed his education. He left the scenes of his childhood to move to the nearby city of Alexandria where he built up a large law practice and a reputation as an advocate which spread to all parts of the State of Louisiana.

While JOHN OVERTON actually held no political office during the years of his early life, he nonetheless maintained an active interest in those gubernatorial campaigns which every 4 years have swept our State. It is said that he was the force which more than any other brought about the election of many of our governors prior to his own entrance into the political arena.

As the dark clouds of war came to this Nation, JOHN OVERTON accepted the responsibility as to the condition of our Navy. He became chairman of the Subcommittee on Appropriations for the Navy; and he gave his best efforts toward placing our sea fighters in such a condition as to meet the test when the Nation called upon them. How well this goal was met is shown by the stirring and historic naval drama of the Second World War, out of which we emerged with an incomparable fleet manned by the most aggressive and intrepid personnel which this world has ever known.

With the war won, Senator OVERTON again turned his attention to flood control. During these years, his innate desire to provide for those who dwell in the valleys of the Nation returned to him with renewed appeal. He worked as a member of the Appropriations Committee and as a member of the Public Works Committee in the Senate, devising plans and programs to meet the flood emergencies occurring all over America. As he saw his plan move toward fruition, the scenes of his early years began to crowd upon him—his birthplace at Marksville, La., behind the Mississippi, the Atchafalaya, and the Red Rivers; the frightened cries arising from the floods; the dirty yellow waters from far up the Mississippi Valley which flooded the homes, killed neighbors, and destroyed their property. Could any resolve be more worth while than that of giving succor, comfort, and aid and flood protection to those whose lives are spent in the valleys and in the shadow of the levees of the great rivers of the Nation? He entered into the work of organizations

whose purpose is dedicated to sponsoring projects which give protection to those in the valleys.

After World War II, Senator OVERTON announced his decision to retire to private life. This decision was made, no doubt, upon the realization that he had done his full part in helping to win the war; and he naturally longed to retire to private life and to ease and comfort. Some 43 Senators signed a petition urging him not to retire but to stand for reelection. Pleas from the people of the State of Louisiana came to him by the thousands, and hundreds more came from all parts of the Nation, asking him to again stand for the Senate. He took all of these requests to heart and, after a careful reexamination, he announced a change in his decision, stating that he would run again. No doubt, this change may have been influenced by the lines of Tennyson's immortal poem, Ulysses, which he loved so well:

> I cannot rest from travel. I will drink
> Life to the lees; all time I have enjoy'd
> Greatly, have suffer'd greatly, both with those
> That love me, and alone;
> How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
> To rust unburnish'd, not to shine in use.

He did not care to spend the remainder of his days in idleness—he did not want to rust—to go to seed. He wanted to use his energies and his God-given talents to the utmost. At this age, when retirement was normal and to be desired, he sensed that

> Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho'
> We are not now that strength which in old days
> Moved heaven and earth; that which we are, we are
> One equal temper of heroic hearts,
> Made weak by time and fate but strong in will
> To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

As a result of this decision, he literally died in his boots. It seemed to be his desire that he would fight on to the very end, serving his people and his Nation with patience and

fidelity. To him, public service was a public trust; and at all times he so conducted himself that his record might bear public inspection and public criticism.

Mr. Speaker, I was called to the Bethesda Naval Center just before Senator OVERTON was taken to the operating room for the operation which he knew would bring the end. Along with his wife and his daughter, I maintained a vigil by his bedside throughout the long and trying hours of his critical illness. I talked with him just before death came on silent wings. His mind was on flood control. He talked of projects in south Louisiana and in north Louisiana. He talked about the Overton-Red River Lateral Canal and the New Orleans projects. He lamented that he would not be able to be present in the Senate to handle the flood-control appropriation bill, which, by tragic coincidence, was scheduled to come up for consideration in the Senate on the very day of his death. He asked who would be able to carry on his work in his absence. This question remains unanswered at the present time.

Mr. Speaker, I am not discouraged as to flood control and navigation. The vastness of these problems challenge the abilities of our leadership. Millions of people living in the valleys of the Nation want and need this help; and in the course of events someone will rise up and meet this challenge with energy and courage. But the training and experience and unselfish leadership of Senator OVERTON is lost; and the people of our State of Louisiana lose an outstanding public official as he goes to his reward.

I saw the telegrams which came to the widow and family. They were from all parts of the Nation. They were words of sympathy and of sorrow. But, more than that, they were filled with gratitude and appreciation—gratitude and appreciation from those who had received at his hands help and protection from floods. They were from peoples who know that water can be even more devastating than fire; peoples who had fought the battles of the swirling, ugly, muddy flood-

waters as they sought to inundate their homes and destroy their property; people who thanked God that Louisiana had given them a leader who would battle for them in high places in Washington; humble people who heard his voice from the floors of the United States Senate and took courage. These people will not forget.

You that have faith to look with fearless eyes
  Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife,
And trust that out of night and death shall rise
  The dawn of ampler life.
Rejoice, whatever anguish rend your heart,
  That God has given you, for a priceless dower,
To live in these great times and have your part
  In freedom's crowning hour.

Remarks by Representative Hébert

Of Louisiana

Mr. HÉBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the memory of one of Louisiana's most beloved citizens and most brilliant statesmen. In the death, just a little over a year ago today, of former Senator JOHN H. OVERTON I lost one of my dearest friends, a man for whom I had the greatest admiration and respect.

I knew former Senator OVERTON from the time I was a boy. His long career of honest and faithful public service stands out as a monument on a hill, enshrined by noble deeds and noble thoughts and measured, mature judgment. I shall never forget that it was in the political arena more than a score and 10 years ago that I first came to know JOHN OVERTON. He was a candidate for the United States Senate. I was a youngster in my teens working for the summer in the headquarters of one of his opponents, Governor Luther E. Hall. In the immaturity and impetuousness of my youth—I was 16 then—I wrote my first political speech, which, incidentally, was never delivered. I remember, however, the profound respect I had for this man and how I was impressed with what I had read and heard about him. I never knew at that time that we would eventually walk down the same political path.

In my later and more mature days of newspaper reporting and political writing, I again crossed JOHN OVERTON'S path. Although the newspaper on which I labored disagreed with JOHN OVERTON'S political affiliations, neither the newspaper nor myself ever lost respect for the man or admiration for his ability. The integrity of JOHN OVERTON could never be questioned.

It was an education to have covered part of his political career as a newspaper reporter. It was a privilege to have served as a colleague in the Congress of the United States.

In his death the Nation, and the South in particular, lost a valiant champion who was always ready and able to defend, in a magnificent and courageous manner, any attack upon the South. Frequently and effectively his voice was raised in Congress in opposition to those who would destroy States' rights for which the South stands and upon which the South was founded.

Everyone who was fortunate enough to have been associated with Senator OVERTON during his lifetime had the most profound respect for his fairness and ability. Quite naturally the people of Louisiana had great confidence in his integrity and demonstrated this sincere belief by selecting him as the man among men to represent them in the Senate of the United States for three terms.

Prior to 16 years of conscientious and devoted attention to his duties in the Senate he had served in the House of Representatives from the Eighth Congressional District of Louisiana.

Mere words are inadequate to express my admiration and high regard for JOHN OVERTON. His thousands of real friends in the great State of Louisiana were proud of his distinguished career, and his unblemished record of fine accomplishments will continue to live and shine like a beacon, lighting the way for those who aspire to follow his footsteps.

While he had many individual achievements to his credit, Senator OVERTON will probably be best known and long remembered for his outstanding work for flood control. He was a recognized leader in this field, and the results that he accomplished for Louisiana and the lower Mississippi Valley are engraved in history.

During his long tenure in the Senate he made the study of flood control, not only as it affected Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley but as it affected the country as a whole,

a living and vital objective. He was thoroughly familiar with and well versed in all waterway matters and became the recognized authority on this subject not only in the Senate but throughout the Nation.

The contributions he made in this respect will be cherished through the years because of the prosperity and safety it brought to the people of Louisiana.

When JOHN H. OVERTON first became a Member of the House of Representatives and later, was elevated, through the good will of the people he served so faithfully, to the Senate of the United States, the progress of Louisiana was being retarded and held back in business and commerce because of recurrent and devastating floods when the angry, muddy Mississippi River and its tributaries overflowed the unprotected banks.

In fact the whole lower Mississippi Valley was suffering and practically stalemated by this torment of nature. From the very outset of his career on the national scene Senator OVERTON practically plunged into the great problem of flood control. And it is because of his fine work and determination of purpose that we have the magnificent Federal flood and conservation programs which today are helping the South to advance businesswise comparable to any other section of the country.

Senator OVERTON was born September 17, 1875, at Marksville, La., then a small country village in the central part of the State and only a few miles from where the Red River joins the mighty Mississippi. During his early life it was only natural that he would witness the great damage, loss of life and property caused by floods, because the district in which he was raised was in the direct path of Louisiana's worst flood areas.

As a young man he attended and was graduated from Louisiana State University with the degree of bachelor of arts. Following this he studied law and received his degree from

Tulane University Law School. For many years he was recognized as one of the most brilliant lawyers in the South.

On May 12, 1931, he was elected as Representative from the Eighth Congressional District to fill the unexpired term of James B. Aswell. He was elected on November 8, 1932, to the United States Senate, reelected to this high office again in 1938 and in 1944.

As many of his friends know, he was rather reluctant to run for reelection in 1944, feeling that he would like to retire from the arduous duties and responsibilities he felt he must assume during the great World War. But his inherent loyalty to his country and his State was the ruler of his decisions rather than his desires.

All through his early childhood he personally witnessed the ravages of floods in the early spring when the turbulent Mississippi and Red Rivers swept over the section in which he lived. That he would dedicate his life to a fight for flood control was just one of the characteristics that made Senator OVERTON a distinctive public servant.

It was not an easy victory. Year after year Senator OVERTON fought for greater flood control and continual improvements of rivers and harbors. To repeat that he was a recognized authority on these two subjects is not just an idle use of words. He had at his command the facts and figures concerning the need, the cost, and benefits to be obtained by an adequate system of flood-control work.

And as he had lived so he died. For his last thoughts and actions were directed toward the approval by the Congress of a measure to advance and improve the flood-control operation of the country. But even though he became universally regarded in this great task on which he concentrated and worked so hard, it was by no means all of the attributes and services of former Senator OVERTON.

He was broadly and liberally informed and to a great degree familiar with all public questions and problems, and especially with issues which directly affected his own State.

Throughout his entire life Senator OVERTON was noted for honor, honesty, candor, and his firm stands for rights and justice. His loyalty and devotion to the best interests of his country and the State of Louisiana was unquestionable. He stood for decency in politics and Government.

He was always forceful and forthright in his opposition to issues which he did not believe reflected the best for America and the American people. He was steadfast in his devotion to principles, loyal to his friends, and forgiving to his opponents. He possessed a warm, friendly disposition and was always cheerful and willing to help and guide the younger Members who came to Congress to represent the State of which he was justly proud.

Senator OVERTON possessed a great quality of humility, tolerance, and understanding which endeared him to his friends and caused his opponents to respect and admire him. Even when the arguments over national issues in the Senate became highly controversial and involved he remained a true gentleman of the South, always courteous, but firmly decisive.

With unusual ability, and rare insight into national and international events, Senator OVERTON was one of the leaders in the Senate in the matter of preparedness. He supported and fought for legislation which would build up our national-defense program and make this country strong. Before and all during the last World War he made every sacrifice that his health and energy could contribute so that America could always be the champion for free and independent people everywhere.

He gave unstintingly of his time and ability to help others. He gave his services unselfishly and vigorously to State, National and international problems up to the very hour of his death.

My respect and admiration for Senator OVERTON cannot be wholly expressed in just a tribute to his memory. He was a real friend and his death was a great loss not only to his

family, his legions of friends, and admirers, but a great loss, too, for the State of Louisiana and the Nation.

Members of Congress and people in the State and over the Nation who were fortunate in having the opportunity to know and work with Senator OVERTON will always cherish his memory and hope that by following the fine example he set during his life that we in turn may be able to improve our services to mankind and make this a better world in which to live.

Senator OVERTON'S great contribution to history and advancement of his State and the Nation will live long after many of the issues for which he fought and won have been forgotten.

In humble tribute to a great man and fine leader, I also want to extend my sympathy to his family, to whom he was devoted. I know the loss they suffered, just over a year ago, cannot be compensated for by tributes or monuments, regardless of how great or significant they may appear to be at the moment.

In His wisdom our Almighty Father saw fit to take Senator OVERTON from among us but we will always have the memory of his great character and personality to guide and help us.

Remarks by Representative Regan

Of Texas

Mr. REGAN. Mr. Speaker, under leave granted to extend my remarks in the Record, I include the following prayer in memorial to the late Senator JOHN HOLMES OVERTON:

A PRAYER FOR INSERTION IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD IN MEMORIAL TO THE LATE SENATOR JOHN H. OVERTON

(Prepared at the request of Senator William Langer)

O God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank Thee for those who have finished their term of service in this earthly life and have left for us a good name and an inspiring example, and the fruit of their labors for the welfare of the state and the good of their fellow men. The souls of the righteous are in Thy hand. We thank Thee that Thou art righteous and just and that the least unselfish service rendered in Thy name will not be forgotten of Thee. We thank Thee for the imperishableness of all that is noble or worthy, and that despite all our earthly illusions of success and failure, every pure thought, every generous wish, every heartfelt word, still lives, and like the ripples in a stream goes broadening on through all time.

We thank Thee that our country has never lacked great and useful and wise leaders, and we praise Thee for the record and service of our departed colleague, JOHN OVERTON.

May the good causes which he espoused prevail and his good deeds be remembered and followed. May we all in our several measures and ways, like him, faithfully serve in our appointed duty, and may there never be lacking in this legislative body the fidelity and patriotism of which Thy departed servant has left for us so salient an example. We ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proceedings
in the
United States Senate

Proceedings in the Senate

FRIDAY, *May 14, 1948.*

Mr. ELLENDER. Mr. President, I deeply regret to announce the death of my distinguished colleague Senator JOHN HOLMES OVERTON. He died this morning at 5:50 in Bethesda Naval Hospital.

He was born 72 years ago at Marksville, La., then a small country village located in central Louisiana, only a few miles from the confluence of the Red and Mississippi Rivers, and in the path of Louisiana's worst flood area.

He graduated from Louisiana State University with the degree of bachelor of arts, and from Tulane University Law School with the degree of bachelor of laws.

After a most brilliant career as one of Louisiana's leading lawyers, he decided to enter politics. He was elected on May 12, 1931, as Representative from the Eighth Congressional District of Louisiana to fill the unexpired term of James B. Aswell. On November 8, 1932, he was elected to the United States Senate for the term ending January 3, 1939, and thereafter he was again elected for two additional terms.

From early childhood he personally witnessed the ravages of floods from the overflow of the Red and Mississippi Rivers. It was natural, therefore, that in early life he resolved to devote his talents to flood control. However, it was not until he became a Member of this body that he could do effective work toward that end.

His chief efforts during his 16 years in the Senate were devoted to flood control and rivers and harbors improvements. Against odds which at times seemed unsurmountable Senator OVERTON, by his brilliant presentations on the subject, was responsible for the saving of countless lives and many millions of dollars in property.

It is ironical that he died on the very day the Senate was due to take up the civil functions bill of the Army, which he had sponsored in the Appropriations Committee, and it is significant that his last thoughts were directed toward the preparation of an outline on the subject which he intended to present. Because of his inability to participate personally in the debate on this momentous question, it was only yesterday that he requested me to read his prepared remarks when the bill was called up for action.

I know of no more fitting tribute than to recite to the Senate the last paragraph from the remarks of the great man whom we all mourn. I read:

> No, Mr. President, the only objection to this bill is that it fails to meet fully and squarely the issue which faces us. We are the breadbasket of the world. We are the hope of the world. Unless we protect and husband our resources, unless we strengthen ourselves to meet the challenge, then all is lost. I know of no better way that we can meet these great responsibilities than by protecting our industry and agriculture from the ravages of flood and by extending our defenses through improvement to our waterways and harbors. When we fail to meet this responsibility by hiding behind a cloak of economy, we deny our faith in a great America.

These were the last official thoughts of my distinguished friend and colleague. They mean much to the cause for which he was fighting. Thus, even in death shall his wise counsel and advice and influence shape the great work to which he devoted his manifold talents.

Louisiana has lost a distinguished son. The Nation has lost a valiant leader.

May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. President, I was informed a few minutes ago that I would be a member of the committee to accompany the funeral train to Louisiana. I do not know when the Senate will take up H. R. 5524, the civil functions War Department appropriation bill. In the event this bill shall be taken up during my absence, I ask unanimous consent that the statement prepared by my distinguished colleague in connection

therewith, which he requested me to read, be read from the desk by the clerk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the order is made.

Mr. ELLENDER. Mr. President, at this time I send to the desk a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the resolution.

The Chief Clerk read the resolution (S. Res. 235), as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN H. OVERTON, late a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That a committee of 23 Senators be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased Senator.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I know that what I have done this morning has violated the rules of the Senate, but I ask that they may be suspended. The bouquet of gladiolus on the desk of our former colleague was on my desk in my office, and as I started to the Senate this morning they seemed so symbolic of the sturdiness and the strength of JOHN OVERTON and his character that I brought them to the Senate to place them on his desk. I am aware, as I have said, that it is contrary to the rules of the Senate, and I ask their suspension and the privilege of doing what I have done.

Mr. LODGE. Mr. President, I have a very strong sense of personal grief in the death of Senator OVERTON. It so happened that although we disagreed on many political questions, we were very good friends. I worked with him here, and when I was in Louisiana during Army maneuvers in 1941 I

was a guest in his lovely house, and came to see him as the affectionate family man he was.

If I were to enumerate a few of Senator OVERTON'S traits, I would say that loyalty to his friends, affection for his family, and deep feeling for his country, were fundamental in his being.

He was a man of real brilliance, of very considerable ability. He was an ornament to the Senate.

I extend my profound sympathy to the members of his family, and I hope that they will derive the real strength and comfort to which they are entitled from the pride which must be theirs in all that he was and all that he did for his fellow men.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. President, the news of the death of JOHN H. OVERTON overwhelms me with a sense of deep personal loss. The State of Louisiana has indeed lost one of its ablest sons, and the Nation has lost a wise, patriotic public servant.

JOHN OVERTON was a kindly, gracious gentleman, a gentleman of the old school. He was of the type that is fast disappearing, to the great loss of our Nation and our civilization. He respected the rights of all men, and he demanded respect for his rights.

JOHN OVERTON was truly a Jacksonian Democrat, both by instinct and inheritance. No one has ever read any life or biography of Old Hickory without being impressed by the frequency with which the name of Overton occurs among the intimates of that great American. JOHN OVERTON inherited the strength of character and the devotion to principle and conviction which made his forebears great men and placed them in the forefront among the builders of the Nation.

JOHN OVERTON was a gallant fighting man. I never saw him take counsel of his fears nor overawed by odds. I never saw him take an unfair advantage of an opponent, even if that advantage was open to him. He was a master of forensics but always courteous to his adversaries.

As has been well said, he had the greatest knowledge of the matters involved in flood control and in rivers-and-harbors legislation of any man in the Congress of the United States. He was an advocate of those public works, not in a narrow, local sense, not in the sense of the pork barrel. I have heard him in committee vigorously urge projects which were located in States that were far removed from Louisiana. He had truly a national grasp of that problem. He was a statesman with a national vision.

I am sure that all Senators share the feeling of personal loss that comes with the knowledge we shall not see him here again. I know that the Nation has suffered a great loss in his passing.

Mr. McCLELLAN. Mr. President, I cannot express in feeble words the profound sorrow I feel in the loss of our beloved colleague and eminent statesman from the State of Louisiana.

It has been my privilege since being a Member of the Senate to enjoy a very close association with him and to serve with him on two important committees where we were engaged in developing a program of legislation in which we were vitally interested and which is of much importance to the progress of our section of the Nation. Since he had a keen insight into that character of legislation I immediately found in him an experienced counselor who was able to give effective guidance to my own efforts in this particular program and service to my own people.

I shall not only miss him because of the warm personal friendship that developed between us, but because I know that I have lost the source of able assistance in legislation in which I am so keenly interested.

JOHN H. OVERTON truly, faithfully, and ably represented in the Congress a great State and a great people in accordance with the finest traditions. He was more than a Senator from the State of Louisiana. He was a real servant to all the people of our Nation. He was devoted to the noble ideals of

our democracy and to human liberty. He stood firm and steadfast as the Rock of Gibraltar in defense of these ideals and the principles upon which our Government is founded, and fought valiantly against every assault made upon our system of government. He was a champion of true progress, and worked constantly for the development and the improvement of our rivers, our streams, our waterways, and the other great natural resources of our Nation.

Not only has the Southwest area profited and progressed by reason of his untiring efforts, his work and leadership in this important field of national legislation, but the entire Nation has greatly benefited thereby.

There are many monuments of river and harbor improvements already erected which stand as a tribute to him and to his memory. These improvements have added immeasurably to the strength and power of the Nation he so dearly loved and in whose service he has given his life.

I express my profound and deepest sympathy, Mr. President, to his family, and I close with this sentiment:

May God give us men, more men in the United States Senate, whose character, courage, quality of service, stature, and capacity can compare with those of our departed colleague.

Mr. EASTLAND. Mr. President, I know of no person whose passing from the Senate could cause a greater feeling of sadness than the passing of the senior Senator from Louisiana.

He was the one character in the Senate of whom the word "beloved" can be used in its truest and highest sense. JOHN OVERTON was revered because of his lofty character, he was admired because of his mental ability; but he was beloved on both sides of the aisle because of his great human qualities.

Humanity and humanness were so pronounced and outstanding in the character of JOHN OVERTON that these qualities perhaps transcended the other elements of his greatness, which was marked by one of the finest judicial and cultured

minds of the country. He was a student of the law and the classics. He was perhaps the greatest classical student in the Senate.

Mr. President, JOHN OVERTON was a man of the very highest integrity. Throughout his whole life he was noted for honor, honesty, candor, and his firm stand for right and justice. His influence in Louisiana and the Nation was wide and wholesome. He stood for decency in politics and Government.

JOHN OVERTON'S memory was phenomenal. It was a well from which he constantly drew without ever finding the bottom of its richness. In these attributes he was perhaps one of the last remaining symbols of the old South from which he derived his greatest inspiration and whose culture contributed so much to his greatness.

JOHN OVERTON was proud of the South; he was one of its great noblemen, and symbolized its perfection as much as any man that region has ever sent to this body.

Six years ago when I came to the Senate, I was struck by his legal ability, his statesmanship, and great intelligence. He possessed one of the most analytical and one of the keenest minds I have ever seen. Mr. President, it was a privilege to be associated with a man of such great mentality and great integrity. In his passing the Nation has lost one of her great men.

I know that I speak for the entire Senate, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, when I state that the Senate will not be the same without his presence. An American landmark is gone. As he goes to his reward, let us all say: God bless his memory.

Mr. McKELLAR. Mr. President, the passing of no Senator in the long time I have been a Member of this body has caused me greater grief than the passing of my warm and devoted friend JOHN OVERTON.

I did not know Senator OVERTON before he came to the Senate, but after he came and I learned to know him he was probably as intimate a friend as I ever had in this body.

Mr. President, I think JOHN OVERTON was one of the noblest characters I ever knew in my life. He was one of the most straightforward, upright, and honest of men, and one of the most honorable men I ever knew. I never knew him to express a dishonorable thought or do a dishonorable act. He was the soul of honesty; courteous to a degree and most delightful and pleasing to those he came in contact with in this body.

JOHN OVERTON'S life was an open book. His treatment of his brother Senators and his kindness and consideration for all constituted one of the finest traits in his lovable and attractive character. I loved him as a friend.

JOHN OVERTON made a great record here as a legislator. He believed in building up, never in tearing down. He was a member of the old Rivers and Harbors Committee and was devoted to the building up of the rivers and harbors of our country. It was one of his principal activities as a legislator.

He was a member of the Appropriations Committee and took a great part in its activities. As we all know, that is a very busy committee and he was one of the most active men on it. In every transaction and on every question he stood square for the right. He had the esteem and affection of every man on the committee as I remember.

I knew him intimately. I served on the Appropriations Committee during all the years he was a member of that committee. I have tried to think today since I heard the sad news of his passing early this morning of any difference we ever had on that committee or on legislation generally. So far as I can now recall, I do not believe that we ever had a serious difference.

He was a model of patriotism. He loved liberty. He loved humankind and he will live in the memory of all who knew him.

I never knew an abler, a finer, or a more splendid gentleman in all my life. I shall respect and esteem his memory as long as I shall live. I am deeply grieved at his passing.

I want to extend my heartfelt sympathy to his wife and children. The State of Louisiana has lost a great citizen and our common country has lost a great Senator.

Mr. CONNALLY. Mr. President, the Senate has been inexpressibly touched in its deepest feelings by the death of our beloved colleague Senator OVERTON, of Louisiana.

It was my privilege to know him with a fair degree of intimacy since he first became a Member of this body. I was profoundly impressed by his great legal ability and his thorough understanding of the fundamentals of government and democracy. He was a student of the Constitution. His forebears were intimately associated with national affairs in the very formative period of the Republic, and participated in the determination of the many vital issues which touched the life of the Nation.

He was a man of great personal charm and warmth of friendship. He was a man of the highest integrity and unblemished honor. I could say more, Mr. President, but it would be only adding words to other words.

The State of Louisiana has suffered the loss of one of her greatest sons. The Senate and the Nation have sustained an irreparable loss. Personally I feel a deep and abiding grief that he should have been taken from the circle in which he served with such great distinction and ability.

When I speak of ability, I mean what I say. He was one of the ablest men with whom it has been my pleasure to be associated in the United States Senate. He was a modest man. He was not always pushing his personality into questions; but whenever he directed his attention to a problem before the Senate he gave it an exhaustive treatment and illuminated it by the intelligence of his great mind.

I deeply sympathize with his family. They have, of course, suffered an affliction which no tongue can express. I deeply grieve at his passing. His memory will stand out as a monument, not of marble, not of stone, but an imperishable monument to his integrity, to his lofty concepts of the functions of government, to the great traditions of the Republic, and to his outstanding ability and grasp of the things which are so vital in American life.

I pay my tribute of love and affection to the memory of JOHN H. OVERTON, of Louisiana.

Mr. BARKLEY. Mr. President, I am sure that we all are depressed by a sense of inadequacy, if not futility, when one of our colleagues joins the innumerable caravan in its journey to that mysterious realm from which no traveler has ever returned. Nevertheless, we would not wish that an opportunity go ungrasped, in our feeble way, to express our appreciation of the character and services of one so outstanding as JOHN OVERTON, of Louisiana.

I counted him one of my warmest personal friends. It was a friendship in which I took pride and by reason of which I felt greatly honored. When he first came to the Senate, it fell to my lot to render to him what I thought was a routine service to a new Member of the Senate. I forgot about it, but he never did, and he never allowed me to forget it. Too often we are reminded by others of what they have done for us, whether in public or private life. JOHN OVERTON was always reminding me of something I had done for him. He never allowed an opportunity to pass without expressing his appreciation.

I agree with those who have characterized him as a man of outstanding ability, of unusual legal attainments, and of a literary culture and moral fiber which we might well emulate.

William E. Russell, once Governor of Massachusetts, I think, said that it is not difficult to make a living, but it is infinitely hard to make a life. In the case of JOHN OVERTON,

his outstanding ability as a lawyer made the process of making a mere living easy, but in the broader field of private and public life, as a public servant and as a man, JOHN OVERTON made a life in Louisiana, in the Senate, and in the appreciation of the American people. We sometimes describe a man's character as a public servant, his character as an American citizen, his character as a man, as a human being. In all those categories JOHN OVERTON met the test.

I have known since he came here his gracious and charming wife and his beautiful and vivacious daughters—a charming, lovely, typical American family circle. I appreciate them and now appreciate them no less than I appreciated him. My warmest sympathy and deepest affection go out to all of them and to all of his friends as I pay this sincere tribute to his memory, which we shall keep precious in our hearts.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I wish to pay my tribute to the integrity, the ability, the intelligence, and the earnestness of JOHN OVERTON. The thing that always has impressed me about him has been the intensity of his convictions and his willingness to serve his convictions. As has been said, he has been perhaps the foremost legislator dealing with rivers and harbors and inland waterways in our country. I have had much contact with him upon those questions. I do not share all his philosophy in those directions, but I do pay my tribute to the faithfulness and earnestness and the ability and intelligence with which he carried out his views.

Only recently, Mr. President, Senator OVERTON and I were associated together on the question of dealing legislatively with the matter of daylight-saving time. With me, that was a matter of convenience, to be settled as may be. JOHN OVERTON profoundly believed in his view about time and the use of time to the very depths of his soul, and he served that conviction.

I brought to the Senate Chamber this morning the flowers which now are on his desk because I wished them to be

symbolic of the vigor and earnestness and sturdy character of JOHN OVERTON. I am glad the Senate has permitted me to place those flowers on his desk.

Mr. ROBERTSON of Virginia. Mr. President, I mourn the untimely passing of one of our most distinguished colleagues. I shall always cherish the memory of the fact that I was privileged to serve in this body with him, even though it was but for a short time, and that I had the opportunity to know him. To see his brilliant mind operate was to admire his native ability. To see his big heart operate was to love him. I shall miss Senator OVERTON, but I agree with the distinguished Senator from Texas, who said that his spirit will live on in this body. His example in advocating what was high-minded, what was noble, what was patriotic will not soon be forgotten.

Next week the mortal remains of Senator OVERTON will be buried in the soil of his native State, but, in the words of Pericles, "The whole earth is in the sepulcher of famous men and their story is not graven only on stone above their native earth, but lives on far away without visible symbol, woven into the stuff of other men's lives."

My sympathy goes out to his bereaved beloved ones. My sympathy goes out to a great State that has lost a public servant of whom Louisiana and the whole Nation are proud. But I also have a very deep feeling of personal loss which brings home to me the uncertainties in which all of us live in these hectic days. A few days on the floor of the Senate—active, vigorous, wrestling with great national and international problems—and then we pull about us a cloak and lie down to pleasant dreams.

It will not be necessary for Louisiana to erect a monument to Senator OVERTON. His name is indelibly linked with monuments to the conservation of natural resources erected throughout the Nation with his help.

Careless of monument by the grave, he built it in the world—a monument by which men might be taught to remember, not where he died but where he lived.

Mr. REVERCOMB. Mr. President, word of the loss of Senator OVERTON came to me this morning, and brought to me a very deep feeling of personal sorrow, and it also brought to me a realization of the loss to the Senate and to the country of a very great and outstanding statesman.

Throughout the past several years that I have known him, I have grown to admire him very much for his high ability and for his fine intellect, and, more than that, for that sterling attribute of character which we call fairness. He was gifted with an understanding and with wisdom seldom possessed.

In the past year and a half it has been my privilege to serve on the Public Works Committee of this body, on which Senator OVERTON was the ranking minority member. Often I sought his counsel and advice. His contributions to the work of that committee cannot be measured. The value of his work is beyond measure. His knowledge of the affairs with which that committee dealt added very much to the achievements of the committee and to the guidance of its members.

Today I express my deep sympathy to the members of his family in their bereavement, and to the people of the State of Louisiana, and to the Nation in the loss of a great man, a good man, and a distinguished and able leader in our national life.

His sound, clear advice will long guide his colleagues, and his courageous and wise service will be an inspiration to those who have served with him. Memory of his life will be an enduring monument to his good works.

Mr. MAGNUSON. Mr. President, I have suffered a real personal loss in the death of the distinguished senior Senator from Louisiana. I knew him well. I had the privilege of

serving in both branches of the Congress with him. I knew his family well. His great devotion to and love for his family and their devotion to and love for him are almost unexcelled in the experience I have had.

I was privileged to serve with Senator OVERTON on many committees, and from my knowledge of him, I know that words are inadequate to describe his integrity, his character, his great ability, and his outstanding public service.

Though he will be taken to his native soil for burial, I think it will be most difficult to know just where in this country to place a monument to his memory. Such a monument, Mr. President, would not be out of place anywhere in the United States, because in his public service, in both the House and Senate, he knew not the meaning of the word sectionalism.

Not only has the State of Louisiana lost a great son, not only has this body lost an able, honest Member, but, speaking for the West, speaking for those who would develop our great natural resources in order to make us strong, the whole Nation has lost, in the passing of JOHN OVERTON, one of the ablest and most effective advocates of the development of national resources it has ever known.

I express to the bereaved family and to all others who mourn his loss my deepest sympathy.

Mr. TYDINGS. Mr. President, I am reluctant to attempt to pay tribute and to voice my thoughts concerning JOHN OVERTON. I do not feel that I can fashion in words the impulses of affection, admiration, and high respect which leap to my mind on this occasion. I shall not attempt to dwell upon his accomplishments in this body or upon other aspects of his life. It is rather to the qualities of the man that I should like to address myself in a few words.

I can imagine no contest of life, whether it be physical or mental, in which one could have a sturdier compatriot than JOHN H. OVERTON. If it were physical and you were fighting

back to back with him, you could always be certain that nothing would lower his arm except death itself. So it was in the forensics and the polemics that stir these legislative halls.

JOHN OVERTON was a rugged adversary and a rugged advocate. He asked no quarter, he gave none, when his deep convictions were involved in public questions. Yet with it all there was that charm, that sense of fairness, of affection and warmth which made you love him, even while he was contesting, with rare vigor, against the things perchance in which you yourself believed.

Such men are rare. The forest of life from day to day only has a number of the tallest and sturdiest oaks. I have a feeling in this hour of sadness that one of the very tallest of them has fallen before the sweep of time.

I desire to express, though I realize but too well how inadequate that expression may be, my deep sense of personal loss. I shall miss his happy countenance, and I shall think of him for many days to come.

I desire to express my sympathy to his family, for I know that the name of JOHN OVERTON today is in the thoughts not only of his family but of all the people of Louisiana, and, indeed, to a large extent in the sorrowing thoughts of the people of the Nation.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. President, I confess my utter inability adequately to express in words the deep feeling of personal loss that comes to me through the death of our colleague, JOHN H. OVERTON. Senator OVERTON was not only a close friend of mine in the United States Senate, but he was also a neighbor of mine at the Wardman Park Hotel. For many years our association in the Senate and at Wardman Park had been friendly and intimate. Senator OVERTON was a man with a fine legal mind, which is so indispensable to the handling of the many complexities of governmental problems appearing before us from day to day. He was an unusual

legislator, a man with a fine character and a great background for high public service. He truly was a great and good American.

The Senate of the United States obviously will miss his wise counsel and voice. His death is a great loss to his State and to the Nation. I mourn his passing. I send to his family assurances of respect, affection, and sympathy in this, their unusual hour of trouble and bereavement.

Mr. STEWART. Mr. President, I am one of those who were glad to call themselves the friends of Senator JOHN OVERTON, and I believe that he was my friend. I have many times felt the warmth of his friendship, and I have many times felt, when alined with him in a cause he was espousing on this floor, the strength of his friendship and of his character.

The State of Louisiana has lost a great citizen; the Nation, a great statesman. To my mind, Senator OVERTON'S outstanding characteristics were, perhaps, his integrity and his courage. He was a man of keen intellect, a man possessing many fine characteristics, as his record in Congress will attest. But I think his courage perhaps and his integrity were outstanding among all the other finer attributes of character he possessed.

I join with this body, with his friends, and with his family in mourning his loss.

Mr. BRIDGES. Mr. President, in the passing of Senator OVERTON I have lost a friend and the Senate has lost a very distinguished Member. It has been my privilege to know him since he came to the Senate and to serve with him for 12 years on the Appropriations Committee. As a member of that committee I have been in very close touch with him from day to day. He was sincere, earnest, hard-working, and able. The tolerance of his approach to all problems has always impressed me. During the 12 years I served with him as a member of the Appropriations Committee he was always

sound in his approach to the very complex problems which the committee was called upon to meet. He was not only fair, but he considered all questions in a nonpartisan manner. He contributed greatly to the nonpartisan spirit which marks the deliberations of the Appropriations Committee. We shall miss him as a Member of the Senate. We shall especially miss him as a member of the Appropriations Committee, to the work of which he contributed greatly.

In this their hour of supreme sorrow I extend to Mrs. Overton and to each member of the Overton family my sincere sympathy, as I express the deep sense of personal loss which I feel as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and which I know is shared by all members of the committee with whom he was closely associated.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolution submitted by the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. Ellender].

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore subsequently, under the second resolving clause, appointed the following Senators as the committee to attend the funeral of the deceased Senator:

Mr. Ellender, Mr. McKellar, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Thomas of Oklahoma, Mr. Tydings, Mr. White, Mr. Russell, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Chavez, Mr. Bridges, Mr. Reed, Mr. Stewart, Mr. Butler, Mr. Buck, Mr. Eastland, Mr. Langer, Mr. Hawkes, Mr. McClellan, Mr. Revercomb, Mr. Johnston of South Carolina, Mr. Robertson of Virginia, Mr. McGrath, and Mr. Malone.

Mr. ELLENDER. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of Senator OVERTON, I move that the Senate take a recess until Monday next at 12 o'clock noon.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 12 o'clock and 52 minutes p. m.) the Senate took a recess until Monday, May 17, 1948, at 12 o'clock noon.

MONDAY, *May 17, 1948.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Maurer, one of its reading clerks, communicated to the Senate the resolutions of the House adopted as a tribute to the memory of Hon. JOHN H. OVERTON, late a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

MONDAY, *January 10, 1949.*

RESOLUTIONS IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SENATOR OVERTON AND THE LATE SENATOR BILBO

Mr. ELLENDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the body of the Record resolutions adopted by the Democratic conference as tributes to the memories of Hon. JOHN H. OVERTON, late a Senator from the State of Louisiana; and Hon. THEODORE G. BILBO, late a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

There being no objection, the resolutions were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

JOHN H. OVERTON

Whereas almighty God in His infinite wisdom has taken from us our colleague, the Honorable JOHN H. OVERTON, late a Senator from the State of Louisiana; and

Whereas throughout his long career in the United States Senate he rendered to our Nation and to his State a most distinguished service; and

Whereas as our trusted friend and close associate, he was ever ready to lend his judgment and his efforts in behalf of the Democratic Party: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, his Democratic colleagues in the United States Senate, express our deep sense of loss at his passing; and

Further, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family of the deceased, that they may be assured of our deep respect for the late Senator and of our condolences upon the passing of our friend.

Adopted by the Democratic conference, this 31st day of December 1948.

THEODORE G. BILBO

Whereas almighty God in His infinite wisdom has taken from us our colleague, the Honorable THEODORE G. BILBO, late a Senator from the State of Mississippi; and

Whereas throughout his long career in the United States Senate he rendered to our Nation and to his State a most distinguished service; and

Whereas as our trusted friend and close associate, he was ever ready to lend his judgment and his efforts in behalf of the Democratic Party: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, his Democratic colleagues in the United States Senate, express our deep sense of loss at his passing; and

Further, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the family of the deceased, that they may be assured of our deep respect for the late Senator and of our condolences upon the passing of our friend.

Adopted by the Democratic conference, this 31st day of December 1948.

THURSDAY, *January 27, 1949.*

Mr. ELLENDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Appendix of the Record a tribute paid to the memory of the late Senator JOHN H. OVERTON, of Louisiana, on October 4, 1948, by Judge Gaston L. Porterie, of the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana, before the Supreme Court of Louisiana, under the auspices of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

JOHN HOLMES OVERTON, THE STATESMAN

JOHN HOLMES OVERTON had the mind of a logician and the heart of the lover of humanity. He was greatly gifted and endowed.

"If a man can play the true logician, and have judgment as well as invention, he may do great matters."—Bacon.

He had the good fortune of coming from distinguished ancestry. On his maternal side, he was a Waddill; they were exceedingly bright and witty. On the paternal side, he was an Overton; they were serious and ambitious.

The town of Marksville, his birthplace, had very fine people of both French and English extraction. He was English in blood;

but he seemed to have absorbed some of the subtle and charming qualities of the French. The town was a small place and it was an asset to him that all of his childhood and early youth were spent there in the close union that life gives in small communities.

His parents were greatly interested in him and he was trained and tutored at home from the very earliest in the English classics. He would practice and recite them with ease in private and in public and soon there was no function, public or private, but that young JOHN OVERTON was sought to adorn it.

Of fine physical appearance, with a voice of melody and charm, yet vibrant of masculine force, he always delivered what would be termed the formal classical address—the Roman ideal, with points in logical sequence leading to the build-up of masterful emotion in a moving climax. He ever remained the trained orator—his evident restraint from total abandonment to the emotions was the proof of the real depths of his feeling.

It was at the relatively late age of 56, after he had moved from his birthplace at the age of 23 to the city of Alexandria, where he had actively and profitably, and with particular distinction, practiced law for a period of 33 years, that his real great trait—his love for humanity—had occasion to come into public play.

Huey Long, the great and unrivaled liberal, was in trouble. He was facing the Senate of the State of Louisiana under charges of impeachment. The logician lost no time in evaluating the points of the charges pro and con, and in arriving to the definite conclusion of Long's innocence. Then the lover of humanity took control and OVERTON gave his services in the successful defense of Huey Long.

He returned to his law practice in Alexandria. He was a marked man, however, for soon thereafter the seat in the House of Representatives in OVERTON'S district became vacant through death. A mass impulse immediately arose over the congressional district to make use of this fine mind which had come, moved by love of all, to defend a great liberal for the public good. OVERTON could do nothing else but respond and he went to the lower House of the Congress.

At the very next election the people promptly promoted him to the Senate, where he remained until his untimely death. At the end of his second term in the Senate, he announced that he did not desire reelection. Whereupon a petition of 52 of his Democratic colleagues—the whole party membership except for a few being out of town—and with numerous Republicans offering to sign, urged the people of Louisiana to compel his return—a unique gesture. The Shreveport Times, owned and managed by Mr. John

D. Ewing, one of the leading newspapers of the State, immediately and successfully sponsored a crusade to return OVERTON for the good of the State and Nation.

His heart told him at once which phase of legislation he should particularly study and improve. The section in which he was born and the section to which he had moved and where he had so well achieved in his profession were both subject to overflow from the floodwaters of the internal rivers of the United States of America. He had seen the keen sufferings of his people during the great 1927 flood. And so, to the protection of the Nation from floods he immediately devoted himself.

"More helpful than all wisdom is one draught of simple human pity that will not forsake us."—George Eliot.

And, after 15 years of attention given the subject, here are the thoughts of no less an expert on the subject than Lt. Gen. R. A. Wheeler, Chief of Engineers, United States of America, expressed as late as in the year 1947:

"It was natural that, in addition to serving the national interests in numerous fields, JOHN OVERTON, as a Representative of his State in the National Congress, should become particularly active in working for those Federal projects which expand the usefulness of our great rivers and other waterways, and at the same time, tame their natural tendencies to destroy our wealth and our lives through recurring floods. Our country has been the gainer for his knowledge and his activities.

"A stanch believer in the homely virtues that have made this Nation great—and in the democratic processes wisely prescribed by the Congress for achieving Federal waterway and flood-control projects—Senator OVERTON has kept his sights focused steadily on the realization of sound measures. His objectives have not been preconceived solutions. He has kept his mind and his opinions open to progressive changes in plans and programs to meet the existing needs, whether these plans called for dams, reservoirs, levees, flood walls, diversion channels, canals, dredging, regulating works, or some other construction found to be the most practicable. He has been at the forefront of those who have fought for flood control and navigation improvements in the Red River Valley. He has been a warm and active supporter of Federal projects for the proper development and control of the Mississippi.

"In a real sense, JOHN OVERTON has been the worthy and honored ambassador of the whole Mississippi Valley.

"He has been a tower of strength to the forces that have sought improved waterway facilities for the great gateway of the valley—the port of New Orleans. He has been the friend of all our great

river cities, ever striving to induce the growth and prosperity of their regions through better inland waterway terminal facilities. He has worked indefatigably for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, which provides a protected water route along the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Corpus Christi, Tex. He was one of the prime movers behind the progressive—and sorely needed—legislation which established flood control as a responsibility of the Federal Government. In the broad influences of his busy life, he has been a part of all sound actions directed toward making our extensive waterways at all times the servants of the American people, and at no time their masters.

"If our rivers could talk, they would tell many stories—stories of Indians and explorers; of brave settlers, and of courageous planters and industrialists who established farms and homes and great enterprises on their banks; stories of husky river boatmen who matched their muscles against the strong currents, and of shipbuilders who devised constantly improved means of traversing the flowing streams; stories of civilian and Army engineers whose genius helped to harness and bridge and control the waters.

"But I venture that they would speak of no one more affectionately than of JOHN OVERTON, whose voice has risen from this valley to express the needs and desires of the people—not of his own locality alone, but of all the land—and who has worked unceasingly for those projects that are now being woven into the history of our growth as a Nation.

"Wherever vessels are better enabled to navigate our numerous rivers and linking waterways; wherever homes and lives are protected from potential floods; wherever farmers give thanks for the rapid drainage of unwanted water from their lands, and conversely, give thanks for water brought to their arid acres; wherever the varied other Federal benefits from our water resources are being enjoyed by American people and American enterprise, there will be found the rich harvest of results sown by such public-spirited citizens as JOHN OVERTON."

He took interest in naval affairs and soon he was the head of the subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee in charge of naval appropriations. Listen to him as he speaks to the American people as a patriotic prophet for the benefit of the generations to come, at the time that he presented for adoption the largest naval appropriation bill in the history of our Nation:

"Mr. President, I should like in conclusion to make several concisely phrased observations.

"It would, in my humble judgment, be an egregious blunder on the part of our Nation if after the conclusion of hostilities we did

not retain the combatant force of the mighty Navy that will have accomplished so much, starting with so little, in bringing, under divine guidance, victory to American arms in the west and the east. I fervently hope that international arrangements that will insure the peace and tranquillity of the world will be agreed to and lived up to. But Mr. President, if they are not, or if they fail to their sublime purpose, we shall have to rely in the future upon the strength of our naval and air farces, as well as upon a mighty reserve force trained and equipped to spring to arms upon the sounding of the tocsin of war. To the consummation of this cardinal prerequisite to national safety we should embark upon a program of compulsory military service.

"Mr. President, we shall have largely wrought, fought, and won in vain, if we do not retain under our own control and ownership the strategic islands in the Pacific and Southwest Pacific which we have captured from the Japanese Empire through the blood and sacrifice of thousands upon thousands of young Americans, and which are ours by the right of conquest and of occupancy."

"Hail, Columbia! happy land!
Hail, ye heroes! heaven born band!
Who fought and bled in freedom's cause.
* * * * *
"And when the storm of war was gone,
Enjoyed the peace your valor won.
Let independence be our boast,
Even mindful what it cost;
Even grateful for the prize,
Let its altar reach the skies!"

—*Joseph Hopkinson.*

So, in debate, on the floor of the Senate, he was the master of the discussion—first the logician who meticulously developed the details of the measure, the necessity of its many provisions; then the lover of humanity who generalized it all together, in a wide compass, adjusted to the needs of a great Nation.

Besides the subjects in which he was generally accepted as a national authority, his labors in the Senate were vast and varied. He took a leading part in the discussions of the following subjects: Appropriations, lend-lease, rivers and harbors, antilynching, FEPC, farm relief, St. Lawrence waterway, manufacturers' sales tax, labor strikes, soldiers' bonus, sugar tariff, allotment to schools, rice tariff. Natural Gas Act, poll tax, war profiteers. In all these subjects he gave much of his rare genius.

Two of his prominent colleagues, one from each major party, said of him this:

Senator Robert Taft, of Ohio, said:

"JOHN OVERTON'S death comes as a shock to all of those who have served with him in the Senate. He was able, and had a complete grasp of the problems with which we have dealt during the past 10 years. He had good judgment, and was untiring in this work. The Senate and the State of Louisiana have lost an outstanding public servant."

Senator Millard Tydings, of Maryland, said:

"JOHN OVERTON was a rugged adversary and a rugged advocate. He asked no quarter and gave no quarter. He was always fair. There was always that charm and affection that made you love him even though he was fighting you. Such men are rare. • • • The name of JOHN OVERTON will live long in the United States Senate. Louisiana is in sorrow and a large part of this Nation is in sorrow."

Kind and gentle to all, devoid of even the slightest shade of arrogance, patient and attentive to every worthy plea, innately urbane and ever courteous, OVERTON was the ideal American gentleman.

His friends and relatives are assembled here in this courtroom where his voice has been heard before. His spirit is here with us. We should conclude with the words he chose in delivering at this very place the general eulogy at the memorial exercises, held on Monday, October 5, 1925, under the auspices of the Louisiana Bar Association:

"Washington Irving has truly said that 'pathos expires beneath the slow labor of the chisel' and 'that there is something more affecting in the spontaneous offerings of nature than in the most costly monuments of art.'

> "'Can storied urn or animated bust
> Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath?
> Can honor's voice provoke the silent dust
> Or flattery soothe the dull cold ear of death?'

"And it seems to me, your honors, that when our souls will have winged their flight to the heaven of our faith, if, by some divine favor we might look back through the portals of eternity upon this goodly earth spreading below, we would rather witness a scene like this where true friends gather bearing their offerings of memories sweet and dear; we would rather observe some flower that the hand of love has rested upon the green sod that covers our last earthly abode though that flower should wither and die on the morrow;

we would rather note some tear softly stealing from the eye of true affection though it vanish in the moment; we would rather catch the passing tribute of a sigh from the breast of some fond friend though it be blown away in the instant by the vagrant zephyrs of the air—than to behold towering above our lifeless clay some costly monument that the cold art of man has devised."

His honesty, public or private, was never questioned; his family life was exemplary; in this man we find none of the discounting shortcomings.

Overton in our public life was without peer or superior. He was of great and lasting benefit to the Nation. Indeed, he was a statesman.

And with Shakespeare we shall say:

"Praising what is lost,
Makes the remembrance dear."

Proceedings
in the
House of Representatives

Proceedings in the House

FRIDAY, *May 14, 1948.*

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Carrell, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had adopted the following resolution (S. Res. 235):

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN H. OVERTON, late a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That a committee of 23 Senators be appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased Senator.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the Senate do now take a recess until 12 o'clock noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. Allen].

Mr. ALLEN of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it becomes my sad duty to announce to the House of Representatives the death of the senior Senator from Louisiana the Honorable JOHN H. OVERTON. Senator OVERTON passed away this morning at the Naval Hospital. He was born and reared in the Eighth Congressional District of Louisiana at Marksville, in Avoyelles Parish, and spent his entire life there and at Alexandria, La. He was elected to the House of Representatives on May 12, 1931, to fill an unexpired term and was reelected for the succeeding term. He was elected to the United States Senate on November 8, 1932, and has served in the Senate continuously since.

A member of the Louisiana delegation, our own friend and colleague, Representative OVERTON BROOKS, is a nephew of Senator OVERTON and is not in the House today because he is with Mrs. Overton and the family to comfort and to help them.

Senator OVERTON was an outstanding lawyer in the State of Louisiana and had a long and distinguished legal career. He was a great constitutional lawyer. In addition to being a master of the English language, he was a ready speaker in the French language.

Senator OVERTON, while being a great lawyer, was also active in community and State matters and contributed greatly to public moves for the betterment and welfare of his State and Nation.

Mr. Speaker, after Senator OVERTON came to the Congress of the United States he gave himself unstintingly and unselfishly to the solution of State, National, and international problems almost to the hour of his death. Louisiana being greatly interested in the cause of flood control, Senator OVERTON was assigned to the Flood Control Committee of the House when he first entered Congress, and throughout his long career has made a contribution to this great cause not surpassed by any other man in Congress. He had broad knowledge of the subject as it concerned every section of the Nation and he endeavored to bring to all sections of the Nation the greatest measure of protection from floods.

I know also, Mr. Speaker, that Senator OVERTON was greatly interested in our national defense program before, during, and since the last World War and his contribution to the cause of national defense has been outstanding. I do not have the time to detail the many other phases of legislation in which he was greatly interested.

In reflecting upon the life and work of this distinguished son of Louisiana I am prompted to say here that one of the outstanding characteristics of Senator JOHN H. OVERTON was

that he had the courage of his convictions. I have noted that fact throughout the years as I have seen him take positions on great national and international issues in the Senate. He was a man possessed of strong convictions.

Mr. Speaker, today the State of Louisiana mourns the passing of one of her most distinguished sons. Today the State of Louisiana has sustained a great loss. The mantle has fallen from the shoulders of a great citizen and an able Senator whose life and work will live on. We of the Louisiana delegation will miss him. The people will miss him. His fine judgment and his great ability undoubtedly will be missed in the Senate of the United States. Mr. Speaker, I personally feel a great loss in the passing of Senator OVERTON. He was my constituent and friend and I was his friend. I extend to Mrs. Overton and all the family my deep personal sympathy, and I pray that God will bless them and sustain them in this tragic hour.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. Domengeaux].

Mr. DOMENGEAUX. Mr. Speaker, I was aware, of course, that Senator OVERTON was a very sick man, but his death early today came as a shock to me. Only yesterday evening I had been at the hospital, where members of his family felt much encouraged over his condition. He appeared to be gaining strength, and I was most hopeful that, despite the handicap of advancing age, he would be able to win this battle just as he had won so many in his long years in public life, working for the best interests of the Nation and of his beloved State of Louisiana. It was not to be.

Senator OVERTON was one of my dearest friends. I admired him greatly, and I appreciated and respected his counsel. He was always cooperative, helpful, and kind. His energy and ability were inspirational, particularly to us younger Members of Congress. Time did not diminish his enthusiasm and his interest in matters pertaining to the welfare

of his fellow men. His understanding and his personality drew to him his great circle of friends who loved and respected him.

Senator OVERTON was recognized for his capable leadership, his soundness of judgment, and his ability as a forceful speaker. He possessed the faculty of presenting a subject in a convincing manner, with practical, clear argumentation. He enjoyed a pleasant sense of humor, which he employed on many occasions to the delight of his listeners.

While he had many achievements to his credit, Senator OVERTON was perhaps best known for his outstanding work in behalf of flood control. He was a leader in that field, and the results that he accomplished for Louisiana and the lower Mississippi Valley in that connection are well known. He was thoroughly familiar with all waterway matters. Louisiana, which is so dependent upon flood-control measures for the safety and prosperity of her citizens can feel most fortunate in having had Senator OVERTON's services.

In Senator OVERTON's death the South has lost a valiant champion who was always prepared to defend, in a most vigorous manner, any attacks upon Southern principles and ideals. Frequently his voice was raised in Congress in opposition to those who would destroy States' rights for which the South stands and upon which the South was founded.

Louisiana had high confidence in Senator OVERTON as is demonstrated by his reelection on two occasions since he was first elected to the Senate in 1932. Prior to 16 years of faithful, devoted attention to his duties in the Senate he had served in the House of Representatives from the Eighth Congressional District of Louisiana.

Senator OVERTON was a member of a number of professional, fraternal, and civic organizations. He was a man who greatly enjoyed his friendships and his associations. He liked to be with other people, to exchange ideas and to feel the public pulse on public matters. He was sympathetic to

the needs of others and he was democratic in his views and in his actions. He was a real American.

Mr. ALLEN of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. Larcade].

Mr. LARCADE. Mr. Speaker, Louisiana has lost one of its most beloved citizens and a brilliant statesman. The Mississippi Valley and the Nation have lost one of its most valued workers and friends.

The Senate of the United States has lost one of its most able and lovable characters.

Mr. Speaker, I have lost one of my dear friends—Senator JOHN H. OVERTON. The ancient Arabs had a saying that "Death is a camel that kneels before every man's tent," and so in the midst of the battle of life comes death, the implacable foe of person, time, or place. Ever walking by our side, it cannot be avoided, and none can escape it. Its sway is universal and the hour of its coming is uncertain. In joy or sorrow it finds us out, and we must follow at the summons. Even as our departed friend was called, to us shall come perhaps without warning the Grim Messenger who shall dash the cup of life all fraught with love and success from our lips and we shall stand as strangers at the gates of eternity.

What will our earthly life, our lofty hopes, our success or failure matter to us at that time?

How paltry and insignificant our own individuality, and how small will seem the part we played in the drama of the universe.

There we shall stand in the presence of the Everlasting Judge, and human imagination shall not take us a step farther, dare not enter that presence, for between us and the soul of departed friends there is a veil which we cannot penetrate, and its secret will not be revealed to us until we, too, pass behind it from the light which is darkness to the full light of perfect knowledge.

Although Senator OVERTON was much older than I, due to our association for many years in public life, and especially in matters having to do with flood-control and rivers and harbors matters, it had been my happy privilege to become a dear and stanch friend of Senator OVERTON, and more because of our disparity in age, I was honored and flattered to have enjoyed the friendship of such a distinguished and lovable man. That friendship of long years standing was to my advantage since I have been a Member of the House of Representatives, as all of you well know, Senator OVERTON was always solicitous about me and my work in the Congress and was most helpful to me in my work and contributed greatly to my success and accomplishments in behalf of my district and our State.

There is no friend like an old friend
Who has shared our morning days;
No greeting like his welcome,
No homage like his praise.
Fame is the scentless sunflower
With gaudy crown of gold,
But friendship is the breathing rose
With Sweets in every fold.

Mr. Speaker, my words are inadequate to pay tribute to this great statesman that the State of Louisiana was so proud to claim, but I do know that Senator OVERTON experienced great joy and satisfaction resulting from the real friendships that he had formed during his years, and especially the friendships made during his service in the Senate with all of his colleagues.

In this greatest of deliberative bodies, neither invective, sarcasm, nor partisanship can sever the bonds of real friendship.

Senator OVERTON was one of the most highly respected Members of the Senate and had the admiration of his colleagues for his great knowledge and ability, and his integrity and espousal of high principles was an inspiration so necessary in a national legislative body.

Senator OVERTON literally gave his life to the public service. At the end of World War II, due to his health, Senator OVERTON desired to retire from the arduous duties which are incumbent upon a Senator as active as he was, but as the champion of flood control and rivers and harbors development in the Senate, and due to his great experience and accomplishments in the Congress in that field, it was only at the insistence of the great majority of the people of the State of Louisiana and upon the demand of thousands of his friends in the Mississippi Valley that Senator OVERTON reluctantly decided to continue to serve in the Senate. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my opening remarks, not only the State of Louisiana and the Mississippi Valley, but the entire Nation will suffer in the loss of their friend and defender of flood control and rivers and harbors legislation in the Congress of the United States, and his wise counsel and indomitable spirit will be missed by his colleagues in the carrying on of this most important problem which means so much to our State and Nation.

In this connection, I am reminded of a passage from a poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson, and he must have had a man such as Senator OVERTON in mind when he wrote:

What builds the Nation's pillars high
And its foundation strong?
What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

Not gold, but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who, for truth and honor's sake,
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly;
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

I remember the biblical quotation, "Greater love hath no man than he that layeth down his life for a friend," but I may well say that Senator OVERTON gave his life for his

country in building the pillars of flood control and rivers and harbors in his State and the Nation.

Senator OVERTON was a man of high character and honor, and among his many attributes was that of tolerance and kindness that drew to him so many friends and admirers.

Reared in an atmosphere of culture and refinement, possessed of the world's goods as measured in a material sense, he lived a simple life, and he was devoted to his splendid family and his host of personal friends.

Senator OVERTON had a very high conception of the importance, responsibility, dignity, and independence of the position of a Senator of the United States. As I have said, he was personally the most unassuming and unostentatious of men, he jealously guarded the prerogatives of his position as Senator against any encroachment or attempted encroachment by any citizen or by any official whether of high or of low degree. I know of occasions when he administered stinging rebukes to persons who sought to enlist his support for measures or for courses of action on grounds of favor or on any other ground apart from the merits.

Indeed, independence and courage were two of his outstanding virtues. Having made few, if any, promises—except that he would do the best he could for his State and for the Nation as a whole—he was not embarrassed, as are some elected officials, and his independence was not restricted by any improvidently given preelection pledges or assurances. As for moral courage, he had always been plentifully endowed with that virtue.

> Lives of great men all remind us
> We can make our lives sublime,
> And departing, leave behind us
> Footprints on the sands of time.

Senator OVERTON had a brilliant mind and even at his advanced age his mind was clear as a bell and even recently he reveled in quoting poems and poetry, so I quote a poem

written by an anonymous author which, I feel, could well be intended for him:

A good man never dies;
In worthy deeds and prayer,
In helpful hands and honest eyes,
If smiles and tears be there;
Who lives for you and me
Lives for the world he tries to help;
He lives eternally.
A good man never dies.

The good and deeds of Senator OVERTON will never die.

The passing of Senator OVERTON is a distinct loss to Louisiana and the Nation, and is a personal loss to me.

I know that there is nothing that I can say that will assuage the grief of his wife and family, but I sincerely extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolence to them in their great loss and in this hour of sorrow, with the hope that God may add His blessing to these readings from His Holy Word.

Death is only an old door,
Set in a garden wall.
On quiet hinges, it gives at dusk
When the thrushes call.
Along the lintel are green leaves
Beyond, the light lies still.
Very willing and weary feet
Go over that sill.
There is nothing to trouble any heart,
Nothing to hurt at all.
Death is only an old door
In a garden wall.

Mr. ALLEN of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. Morrison].

Mr. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the passing of one of Louisiana's most able and distinguished officials. His work on flood control and for rivers and harbors will live on for years in our Nation's history.

While in the course of Louisiana's turbulent politics we have differed on some occasions in the past, they arose from

political alignments rather than from the heart. I shall always pay tribute to and admire Senator OVERTON'S outstanding accomplishments, for both our beloved State and Nation.

It is with sincere regret that due to previous engagements which I am unable to change, that I will be unable to attend the funeral in Louisiana. To Mrs. Overton, to his daughters, to his many friends go my profound and deepest sympathy.

Mr. ALLEN of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. Boggs].

Mr. BOGGS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it was approximately 8 years ago when I first came to the House of Representatives. From the moment of my arrival here the office of my senior Senator from Louisiana was open to me, and his counsel, his friendly, almost fatherly advice, was mine for the asking. There soon grew within me a friendship and affection and a love for JOHN H. OVERTON which became stronger and dearer with time. I shall miss him always.

My State has lost a peerless leader. The Nation has lost one of its great statesmen, and I have lost a priceless possession—a friend.

My colleagues have told you of his life and achievements. Those achievements shall long survive him because through him the grave threat of the Mississippi River and its tributaries has been removed from the minds of my fellow citizens.

When JOHN H. OVERTON first came to the House of Representatives, and later to the United States Senate, the development of my State was being retarded and held back in agriculture, in business, and in industry because of recurrent, expensive, devastating floods from the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

While never neglecting the over-all requirements of the office of a United States Senator, he plunged into the problem of flood control and because of his work the great Federal flood and conservation program was brought into being.

In this work he was never sectional nor partisan. He gave of his time with equal generosity to the people suffering from devastating floods, whether they occurred in the Mississippi Valley, in the East or in the West, and all of you who live within areas subject to overflowing owe a debt of everlasting gratitude to my senior Senator.

In his last days Senator OVERTON showed the same courage and fortitude and determination which characterized his whole life. He was at his desk in the United States Senate until about 10 days ago. He was rushed to the Bethesda Hospital for an emergency operation, and since Saturday of last week he has lingered at death's door. Time and time again during the past few days he has denied the call of death, but finally early this morning he went to meet our Maker.

To Mrs. Overton, his devoted lady, Mrs. Boggs and I extend our deepest sympathy. To his daughters, three charming, delightful girls, devoted in their love for their father, we extend our love and admiration.

My colleague, Representative Overton Brooks, of the Fourth Louisiana District, is not present now because Senator OVERTON was his uncle, and he, of course, is with the family. To my colleague I also extend my sympathy and profound regret.

Senator OVERTON was forceful in debate, steadfast in his devotion to principles, loyal to his friends, and forgiving to his opponents. He possessed a warm, friendly, cheerful disposition. He was devoted to his family and they to him.

In closing I extend to the family my gratitude for the help, for the counsel, for the guidance which Senator OVERTON so freely gave to me.

I extend the gratitude and sympathy of the people of the great city of New Orleans and of the Second Congressional District of Louisiana. I pray that our Divine Saviour will grant him peace and everlasting joy.

Mr. ALLEN of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. Passman].

Mr. PASSMAN. Mr. Speaker, our hearts are saddened, as are the hearts of all Louisianians, by the death of our beloved senior Senator JOHN H. OVERTON. We mourn that so great a man as Senator OVERTON has been taken from us, but since it was the will of the Supreme Architect of the universe that this great man be taken away, our greatest consolation is to know that the world is a better and a happier place in which to live because of the Senator having lived in it.

Those of us who have labored with Senator OVERTON and knew him best can praise him most because we recognized his great ability and respected and appreciated his advice and able counsel. The Senator was a brilliant man and his knowledge of our Nation's problems not only endeared him to his fellow Louisianians but to countless Americans throughout our Nation. For many years the Senator championed the cause of adequate drainage and flood control, and his efforts in this field of endeavor have been so great, along with his many other outstanding accomplishments, that he is recognized as one of the Nation's foremost statesmen and leaders.

The Senator was my personal friend, and any measure of success that I have attained as a Member of Congress is in good part due to Senator OVERTON'S willingness to advise me often and wisely on the many problems that have confronted me as a Congressman. On many occasions he told me that the facilities of his office were at my disposal when, in my wisdom, such service would enhance the value of my services to my district, my State, and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, even though our beloved Senator has been called to the Great Beyond, we will always cherish his memory here and improve our services to mankind by following the many fine examples set by this great servant of the people.

To Mrs. Overton and the family I extend my heartfelt sympathy and pray that God, through his loving kindness, may sustain them and console them in their hour of great bereavement.

Almighty Father, in Thy hands we leave with humble submission the soul of our departed friend and Senator.

Mr. ALLEN of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. Whittington].

Mr. WHITTINGTON. Mr. Speaker, Senator JOHN H. OVERTON was born at Marksville, La., September 17, 1875, and died in the city of Washington May 14, 1948. He received his academic degree at the Louisiana State University and his law degree at Tulane University.

Following his graduation, he located at Alexandria and was engaged in the practice of law until his election to the House of Representatives for an unexpired term on May 12, 1931.

Possessed of unusual native ability, and with a keen mind, he attained high rank in the legal profession. For many years he had a large and lucrative practice.

On November 8, 1932, he was elected to the United States Senate, and was reelected in 1938 and again in 1944.

From the first, Senator OVERTON devoted himself to mastering problems of flood control and rivers and harbors. He was universally regarded as the leading authority on these subjects in the Senate of the United States. While broadly and liberally informed, he concentrated his work in the Senate by familiarity with all public questions and by mastering the paramount public questions and problems of the State of Louisiana under the jurisdiction of the committees of which he was a member.

No State in the Union is more interested in the improvement of rivers and harbors and in the production of sugar than Louisiana. In practice Senator OVERTON early realized what all Members of Congress know, that it is impossible for

a Member to master the details of all public questions and public problems. His career was unique because he was the master of the two important problems that engaged the attention both of his State and of his country during his service in the Congress. While interested in the improvement of the natural resources of his own State, he realized that other States had comparable problems and that Federal assistance would not be extended to Louisiana unless comparable legislation were enacted for other States. He devoted himself, therefore, to the study of the problems of all the rivers in all the river basins of the country, and to the needs and requirements of the principal harbors of the United States. He recognized that there was need for water in the arid West. He devoted much time to the consideration of the problems of reclamation, for he felt that it was almost as important for cultivation to put water on lands as it was to keep water off of lands. He also knew that Louisiana, for the promotion of the sugar industry, could not obtain protection or assistance at the hands of the Federal Government unless the sugar interests of other States were accorded comparable relief. No man knew more about sugar production and the details of sugar legislation than Senator OVERTON. I would do injustice to his memory if I left the impression that his efforts were confined to rivers and harbors and to sugar production.

For years he was in charge of the appropriations for the District of Columbia. He became thoroughly acquainted with the problems and with the needs of the District. No Senator ever served the District more acceptably. He insisted that the United States assume the just burden required in the operation of the affairs of the District of Columbia. For years he was known as the champion of the District.

During World War II, as a member of the Committee on Appropriations, he was a supporter of a big Navy and of adequate appropriations for the enlargement of the Navy and its maintenance. New Orleans is the second largest port in the Nation. Senator OVERTON not only insisted upon ade-

quate appropriations for the Navy, but he championed the expansion and the operation of the merchant marine in peace, and especially in World War II. He was therefore not only a master of the improvement of rivers, but of the expansion of the merchant marine in the growth of commerce and in defense of the country.

Senator JOHN H. OVERTON, when he came to Congress, had succeeded in his profession and acquired a good estate. He was independent as he was courageous in the discharge of his official duties. He had the courage of his convictions. With him, the merit rather than the popularity of the proposal was controlling.

Senator OVERTON was possessed of a delightful personality. He had the faculty of cooperation. He was tolerant of the views of others. He was considerate of both sides of all public questions. I know of no member of any committee who was more industrious or patient. He attended all the hearings involving rivers and harbors and flood control during his service in the Senate.

Louisiana and Mississippi are neighboring States. We have many public problems in common. The political leaders of one State are fairly well known, at least by reputation, in the other State. All of the States bordering the Lower Mississippi River have common flood problems. No Senator or Representative of the Mississippi Valley has ever been more effective in promoting flood control and river and harbor improvements than Senator JOHN H. OVERTON. His passing is a distinct loss to the people of Louisiana and a great loss to the country. No Senator or Representative in all the history of Louisiana ever contributed as much to the improvement of rivers and harbors of that State as Senator OVERTON.

Senator OVERTON, while not chairman of the Committee on Commerce, now the Committee on Public Works in the Senate, was the acknowledged leader in flood control. He was in charge of flood control and river and harbor legisla-

tion from the day that he entered the Senate. I was a member of the Flood Control Committee when Senator OVERTON came to the House and was assigned to that committee. I came to regard him and esteem him for his ability and for his devotion to the cause of flood control. It fell to my lot to pilot through the House of Representatives all of the general flood-control legislation now on the statute books. He was in charge of the legislation on the floor of the Senate.

Together Senator OVERTON and I have worked for the improvement of the rivers not only of our respective States, but of the entire country. As the years come and go, his services will be more and more appreciated. No one will miss him more than I.

I extend to his gracious wife and his devoted daughters my sincerest sympathy. I count them, as I counted him, among my best friends.

Mississippi joins with Louisiana in mourning the passing of one of the outstanding statesmen of our day. Mississippi gladly joins Louisiana in paying tribute to his memory and to his services to his State and country.

Mr. ALLEN of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. Deane].

Mr. DEANE. Mr. Speaker, it was not my privilege to know personally the beloved Senator from Louisiana, but during the first session of this Congress I had the opportunity to read many hearings bearing upon flood control, and as I read those hearings I realized that it was perhaps because of the sincere interest of this great man, to whom we pause at the close of this day to pay honor, that a great flood-control project in North Carolina in which I am vitally interested was initiated. May I say to my colleagues from Louisiana that some years ago it was my pleasure to visit your great State, and I saw there many projects that I am quite sure reached accomplishment through the efforts of this great man. I echo the sentiments expressed by the

gentleman from Mississippi. My State of North Carolina, too, shares in your great loss.

Mr. ALLEN of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 596).

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOHN H. OVERTON, a Senator of the United States from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased Senator.

Resolved, That a committee of eight Members be appointed on the part of the House to join the committee appointed on the part of the Senate to attend the funeral.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the funeral committee Messrs. Allen of Louisiana, Brooks, Hébert, Domengeaux, Larcade, Morrison, Boggs of Louisiana, and Passman.

The Clerk will report the further resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 27 minutes p. m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, May 17, 1948, at 12 o'clock noon.

TUESDAY, *June 8, 1948.*

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago Senator JOHN OVERTON, of Louisiana, died at the Bethesda Medical Center and speeches were made praising his magnificent work as a leader for flood control and rivers and harbors work. One

of the last acts of the Senate prior to his death was to place in the civil functions appropriations bill an item to begin work on the Overton Red River canal—a project dedicated to his legislative work and his memory. Were Senator OVERTON alive today, he would be sitting beside the House and Senate conferees working on this bill with them.

The people of Louisiana are hopeful. They are very hopeful that this item will be retained in the bill. They are pleading that conferees will continue the recognition in death which this Congress has willingly given in life. The Overton Red River canal project should remain in the civil functions bill.

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